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**CHICO MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that JASON MORGAN 27, of Chico, California, was sentenced today to 15 years in federal prison for having produced, possessed, received, and distributed child pornography in August and September, 2003. MORGAN pleaded guilty in February of this year to two counts of receiving child pornography, two counts of distributing child pornography, one count of possessing child pornography, and one count of using a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of that minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. He was sentenced today in Sacramento by United States District Judge William B. Shubb.

This case was the product of an extensive/joint investigation by the Sacramento-based SAFE Task Force, which is comprised of law enforcement agents from the California Department of Justice's Sexual Predator Apprehension Team, the Sacramento Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other federal and local law enforcement agencies.

"Those who would exploit our children should pay heed to the severe punishment handed down today. Such cases will remain a top priority for the United States Attorney's Office, and our allied federal, state, and local law enforcement partners," said Scott.

According to court documents, agents began to investigate MORGAN in March of 2003 when he contacted an undercover officer and expressed interest in having sex with the

undercover officer's fictitious children. After repeated conversations, MORGAN arranged to meet the undercover officer and his fictitious daughter at a Chico motel for the purpose of engaging in sex with the children. The meeting never took place, however, because MORGAN suspected they were police. Thereafter, federal authorities received permission from the district court to electronically intercept and monitor MORGAN's internet account. During the monitoring period agents discovered that MORGAN actively traded child pornography. They also learned that MORGAN established a relationship with a 14-year old girl in Minnesota and that he persuaded her to take sexually explicit images of herself and then e-mail them to him. Agents who analyzed MORGAN's computer after his arrest found approximately 1,160 images of child pornography that MORGAN had saved to his computer hard drive. Among the images were sexually explicit images the 14-year old Minnesota girl had sent to MORGAN at his direction.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Laurel White, who prosecuted the case, MORGAN faces a 10-year term of supervised release following the completion of his prison sentence. While under supervision MORGAN must adhere to a number of conditions, including one that prohibits him from having any contact with children under the age of 18 years unless approved by his probation officer in advance. Additionally, during his term of supervision, he may not loiter within 100 feet of school yards, parks, playgrounds, arcades, or other places primarily used by children under the age of 18.

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